

# Statistics Weekly

Thursday, 16 September 1993

*The week in statistics ...*

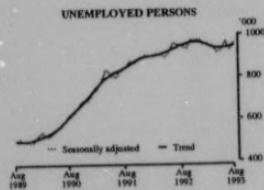
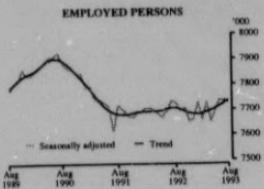
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## Trend unemployment increasing

Provisional trend estimates of unemployment increased for the third month in a row in August 1993, after falling between November 1992 and May 1993. The trend estimate of employed persons has been increasing since February 1993, although the trend in full-time employment has declined marginally in the last two months after increasing since October 1992. The trend estimate of the unemployment rate was 10.9 per cent, unchanged from last month while the trend participation rate increased to 62.5 per cent after remaining unchanged at 62.4 per cent in the previous five months.

### Employment

The August 1993 seasonally adjusted estimate of employed persons was 7,729,600, a small decrease since July 1993. Full-time employment fell to 5,908,900 while the number of persons employed part time increased slightly to 1,820,700. For males, employment fell by 18,000 to 4,460,800 with decreases of 9,100 in full-time employment and 8,900 in part-time employment. Female employment increased by 12,500 to 3,268,800, due almost entirely to an increase of 12,300 in part-time employment.



### Unemployment

The seasonally adjusted estimate of unemployed persons in August 1993 was 963,500, an increase of 39,300 since July 1993. The number of unemployed persons seeking full-time work and part-time work increased by 28,900 and 10,400 respectively. Male unemployment rose by 20,900 to 585,400 with increases of 13,400 in full-time unemployment and 7,500 in part-time unemployment. For females, unemployment rose by 18,300 to 378,100 mainly due to an increase of 15,500 in the number of females seeking full-time work. Female unemployment is now at the highest level recorded since the monthly survey began in February 1978.

1. LABOUR FORCE SURVEY ESTIMATES, 1993  
Seasonally adjusted

	<i>Employed</i>					Participation rate — per cent —
	Full-time workers	Part-time workers	Total	Unemployed	Unemployment rate	
	— '000 —					
January	5,903.7	1,822.3	7,726.1	954.0	11.0	62.9
February	5,893.8	1,765.4	7,659.2	956.1	11.1	62.4
March	5,940.9	1,786.4	7,727.3	941.3	10.9	62.7
April	5,904.5	1,747.5	7,652.0	914.2	10.7	61.9
May	5,915.1	1,781.8	7,696.9	924.8	10.7	62.2
June	5,995.2	1,780.8	7,776.0	966.4	11.1	62.8
July	5,917.8	1,817.3	7,735.1	924.3	10.7	62.4
August	5,908.9	1,820.7	7,729.6	963.5	11.1	62.6

### Unemployment rate

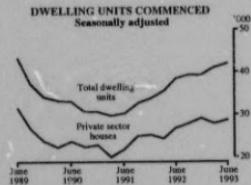
The seasonally adjusted estimate of the unemployment rate in August 1993 was 11.1 per cent, an increase of 0.4 percentage points since July 1993. For males, the unemployment rate increased by 0.4 percentage points to 11.6 per cent and for females, the unemployment rate increased by 0.4 percentage points to 10.4 per cent.

## Participation rate

The seasonally adjusted estimate of the labour force participation rate in August 1993 was 62.6 per cent, an increase of 0.2 percentage points since July 1993. For males, the participation rate was 73.7 per cent, unchanged from July 1993, and for females, the participation rate increased by 0.4 percentage points and now stands at 51.8 per cent.

*For further information, order the publication *The Labour Force, Australia, Preliminary (6202.0)*, or contact Heather Crawford on (06) 252 6525.*

## Housing starts remain strong



In seasonally adjusted terms, the total number of dwelling units commenced in the June quarter 1993 was estimated to be 41,971, an increase of 2.5 per cent over the March quarter estimate and 9.1 per cent over the June quarter 1992 estimate. The June quarter 1993 estimate was the highest for four years. Private sector house commencements rose by 3.3 per cent to 28,758 in the quarter.

The June quarter increase in dwelling unit commencements was strongest in the Australian Capital Territory (28.0%) and Queensland (8.3%). New South Wales (1.4%) and Victoria (1.8%) also showed growth. However, these increases were partially offset by falls in Tasmania (18.1%), Western Australia (8.1%) and South Australia (0.8%).

In original terms, there were 42,324 dwelling units commenced in the June quarter 1993, an increase of 13.1 per cent over the March quarter figure of 37,434. Total private sector commencements rose by 14.0 per cent (house commencements up 12.9%; other residential building commencements up 17.4%). Public sector commencements rose slightly, by 0.3 per cent (a 17.0% growth in house commencements was offset by a 10.2% fall in other residential building commencements).

## Full year outcomes for 1992-93

In original terms, there were 161,261 dwelling units commenced in 1992-93, an increase of 15.0 per cent over the 1991-92 estimate and the highest annual total since the 174,963 recorded in 1988-89. Private sector dwelling unit commencements increased by 16.5 per cent, while public sector commencements fell by 2.8 per cent. Total house commencements rose by 12.4 per cent and total other residential building (townhouses, flats, apartments, etc.) commencements rose by 22.5 per cent. The increasing importance of the construction of other residential dwellings can be seen from the proportion of other residential dwelling unit commencements as a percentage of total dwelling units commenced. This proportion has increased from 25.5 per cent in 1990-91, to 25.8 per cent in 1991-92 and 27.5 per cent in 1992-93.

DWELLING UNIT COMMENCEMENTS, 1992-93  
Percentage change from previous year

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
Houses	3.3	14.8	15.6	12.3	21.9	6.0	-10.5	20.5	12.4
Other residential	18.3	-19.4	41.9	-4.6	41.3	12.9	-19.3	32.9	22.5
Total dwellings	8.6	10.7	22.1	8.6	26.7	7.8	-13.3	23.8	15.0

There were 47,051 dwellings units commenced in Queensland in 1992-93, the highest of any State. This is the first time since this series began that either New South Wales or Victoria has not recorded the most dwelling unit commencements in a financial year.

*For further information, order the publication Building Activity, Australia: Dwelling Unit Commencements, Preliminary (8750.0), or contact Paul Seville on (06) 252 6067.*

## Award rates remain steady

The weekly award rates of pay index for full-time adult employees recorded minimal change in July 1993 continuing a pattern of slow growth since the end of 1991.

There was a 0.8 per cent rise in the index in the twelve months to July 1993 compared with a 3.1 per cent rise in the year ended July 1992. For females, award wages rose by 0.9 per cent in the year, while for males they rose by 0.7 per cent. The largest movement in the twelve months ended July 1993 was for females in the recreation, personal and other services industry (2.6%) followed by females in public administration and defence (2.3%). The largest increase for male award wages in the year to July was 1.6 per cent in public administration and defence. There were no notable changes between June 1993 and July 1993.

*For further information, order the publication Award Rates of Pay Indexes, Australia (6312.0), or contact Bruce McClelland on (06) 252 6581.*

## Queensland in brief ...

### Motor vehicle registrations

- In seasonally adjusted terms there were 8,610 new motor vehicles (excluding motor cycles, mobile equipment and trailers) registered in July 1993. This was 15.2 per cent lower than the figure for the previous month.
- New registrations of passenger vehicles for the month of July 1993 showed that the Ford Falcon/Fairmont model (1,017) led the market, followed by Holden Commodore/Calaïs (843), Mitsubishi Magna (434), Toyota Camry (362) and Toyota Corolla (331).

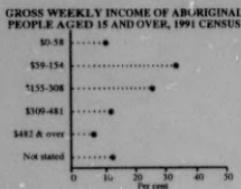
*Source: Motor Vehicle Registrations, Queensland, July 1993.*

### Livestock products — meat

- During July 1993, 82,453 tonnes of meat were produced. This was slightly less than that produced in June 1993, and slightly more than for July 1992. Beef production was 84 per cent of all meat produced in July 1993.
- For the month of July 1993, the number of cattle slaughtered increased by 2 per cent over figures for July 1992 while beef production also increased by 2 per cent.

*Source: Livestock Products — Meat, Queensland, July 1993.*

## Aboriginal people in the West



Data extracted from the 1991 Census has confirmed that the use of Aboriginal languages among Western Australia's indigenous people has contracted into older age groups and the northern and eastern parts of the State.

In all, 7,821 of the State's 41,779 Aboriginal people reported speaking an Aboriginal language at home. In the Statistical Divisions where the use of indigenous language was highest (Kimberly, Pilbara, South Eastern and Central) some 61 per cent of Aboriginal people aged 65 or more spoke an Aboriginal language. The proportion dropped to about 36 per cent among the 15-64 age group, and to 21 per cent among those aged 0-14 years.

These data are extracted from the special publication *Western Australia's Aboriginal People* produced by the State office of the Australian Bureau of Statistics under commission from a number of State government agencies.

Among the broad findings reported in the publication:

- Western Australia's Aboriginal population increased by 11 per cent between 1986 and 1991. The equivalent increase for the total population was 13 per cent.
- 61 per cent of Aboriginal people were below the age of 25 years, compared with only 39 per cent for the total population.
- 28 per cent of Aboriginals lived in the Perth Statistical Division and 26 per cent lived in the Kimberley Statistical Division.
- Death rates were significantly higher for the Aboriginal population than for the total population in 1991.

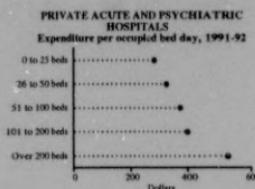
The Census data also revealed that there were more lone parent families in the Aboriginal population (15%) than in the total population (8%), and that multi-family households formed a much higher proportion of Aboriginal households (8%) than total households (1%).

As to income levels, 44 per cent of Aboriginals received less than \$155 per week, and almost a third of all Aboriginal families received an income of less than \$309 per week.

On housing, 60 per cent of rental payments by Aboriginals on dwellings were less than \$78 per week, while the most common mortgage repayment bracket by Aboriginals on dwellings was between \$201 and \$300 per month.

*For further information, order the publication Western Australia's Aboriginal People (4107.5), or contact John Filippone on (09) 323 5332.*

## Private hospitals in profile



A comprehensive statistical picture of Australia's private hospital system has been compiled from the first survey of that industry conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

The data collection was designed in consultation with Federal and State health authorities and private hospital associations. The following results for 1991-92 were among those obtained in respect of the 319 private acute and psychiatric hospitals included in the first survey:

- 4,891,300 occupied bed days were recorded for the 1,157,200 inpatients who were separated from these hospitals during the year. The average length of stay in hospital per patient, based on these figures, was 4.2 days.
- Bed occupancy rates averaged 64.4 per cent. This rate varied from 76.1 per cent for hospitals with over 200 beds to 57.6 per cent for hospitals with 26 to 50 beds.
- The average number of full-time equivalent staff engaged at all hospitals during the year was 31,097. Nursing staff, mainly registered and enrolled nurses, made up 59.5 per cent of this number.
- Total operating expenditure during the year amounted to \$1,955 million of which 60.8 per cent was expended on salaries and wages, including on-costs such as superannuation employer contributions, payroll tax and workers' compensation premiums.
- The average operating expenditure per occupied bed day was \$400. These unit costs ranged from an average of \$285 for smaller hospitals (25 beds or less) to \$521 for the larger hospitals (over 200 beds). These unit costs are based on total costs for inpatient and non-inpatient services.
- In the case of inpatient services, the more expensive procedures using costly medical equipment and very specialised staff tend to be carried out at larger hospitals. It is also the larger hospitals which are more likely to expend significant funds on non-inpatient services.
- Revenue received during the year was \$2,177 million, nearly all (95.3%) of which was received as payments from or in respect of patients.

The ABS survey also collected 1991-92 details for 72 free-standing day hospital facilities throughout Australia. These facilities provide treatments and diagnostic investigations on a day-only basis and comprise mainly day surgeries, specialist endoscopy centres and ophthalmic centres. In 1991-92 only a few had been established outside New South Wales and Victoria. Some 136,100 surgical and other procedures were performed at these facilities in respect of 123,400 patient separations during the year.

## Inquiries

The ABS supplies a wide range of statistical information:

- through its bookshops
- by mail order (including subscription)
- by facsimile
- electronically.

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### ABS Central Office

- PO Box 10  
BELCONNEN ACT 2616
- (06) 252 6627  
FAX (06) 253 1404

### ABS State Offices

- NSW (02) 268 4611  
Vic. (03) 615 7000  
Qld. (07) 222 6351  
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### Editor

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**Statistics Weekly**  
16 September 1993

## Order from the following:

### Expected releases over the fortnight to 28 September

- 15 Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Eight Capital Cities, July 1993 (\$607.0; \$10.70)
- Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra, July 1993 (\$608.0; \$8.20)
- 16 Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia, July 1993 (\$569.0; \$10.70)
- 17 Export Price Index, Australia, July 1993 (\$605.0; \$8.20)
- 21 Price Indexes of materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Australia, July 1993 (\$611.0; \$10.70)
- Import Price Index, Australia, July 1993 (\$614.0; \$8.20)
- 22 Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Australia, August 1993, Preliminary (\$930.1; \$
- 28 Manufacturing Production, Australia, August 1993, Preliminary (\$830.1; \$

### All the week's releases: 8 to 14 September

#### General

- Publications Advice, 10 September 1993 (\$110.0; free)
- Publications Advice, 14 September 1993 (\$110.0; free)
- Monthly Summary of Statistics, Aust., September 1993 (\$1304.0; \$20.40)
- Statistics Weekly, 9 September 1993 (\$1318.0; \$4.20)
- Working Papers in Econometrics and Applied Statistics, September 1993 (\$1351.0; \$10.00) — new issue

#### Social statistics

- Private Hospitals, Aust., 1991-92 (\$490.0; \$15.00) — new issue

#### Labour statistics and prices

- The Labour Force, Aust., August 1993, Preliminary (\$6202.0; \$10.70)
- The Labour Force, Aust. — Preliminary Data on Floppy Disk, August 1993 (\$6271.0; \$66.30)
- Award Rates of Pay Indexes, Aust., July 1993 (\$6312.0; \$12.70)
- Price Indexes of Copper Materials, Aust., August 1993 (\$6410.0; \$5.60)
- Price Indexes of Materials Used in Coal Mining, Aust., July 1993 (\$6415.0; \$10.70)

#### Agriculture

- Livestock Products — Meat, Qld, July 1993 (\$7204.3; \$5.10)

#### Manufacturing, Mining, Energy, Service Industries, Building and Construction

- Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Clothing and Footwear, June 1993 (\$8358.0; \$10.70)
- Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Food, Drink, Tobacco, Stock and Poultry Food, June 1993 (\$8359.0; \$10.70)
- Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Fibres, Yarns, Fabrics, Bedding and Floor Coverings, June 1993 (\$8360.0; \$10.70)
- Building Activity, Aust.: Dwelling Unit Commencements, June Qtr 1993, Preliminary (\$8750.0; \$10.70)
- Building Approvals, NSW, July 1993 (\$8731.1; \$10.70)
- Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, Qld, June 1993 (\$8741.3; \$10.70)

#### Transport

- Motor Vehicle Registrations, Aust., July 1993 (\$9303.0; \$10.70)
- Motor Vehicle Registrations, Qld, July 1993 (\$9303.3; \$10.50)

Key national indicators	Period	Units	Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on	
			Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year
<b>National accounts</b>						
Gross domestic product (GDP(A)) at 1989-90 prices	June qtr 93	\$m	n.a.	95,250	1.2	3.3
<b>International accounts</b>						
Balance on current account (b)	July 93	\$m	-1,548	-1,099	26	26
Balance on merchandise trade (b)	"	"	-180	144	—	—
Balance on goods and services (b)	"	"	-169	20	—	—
Merchandise exports	"	"	5,897	5,395	7	13
Merchandise imports	"	"	4,577	-5,251	1	10
Net foreign debt	30 June 93	\$m	172,325	n.a.	7.5	12.9
Net foreign liabilities	"	"	222,984	n.a.	7.2	12.2
<b>Consumption and investment</b>						
Retail turnover at current prices	July 93	\$m	8,046	8,194	0.2	3.6
New capital expenditure at 1989-90 prices	June qtr 93	\$m	6,034	5,788	-2.8	1.8
New motor vehicle registrations	July 93	no.	45,464	43,743	-9.3	0.6
<b>Production</b>						
Manufacturers' sales at 1989-90 prices	Mar. qtr 93	\$m	31,512	33,677	1.1	2.3
Dwelling unit approvals	July 93	no.	15,738	15,200	8.2	10.7
Building approvals	"	\$m	2,080	2,097	4.1	14.3
Building work done at 1989-90 prices	Mar. qtr 93	"	5,748	6,207	0.8	6.9
<b>Prices</b>						
Consumer price index	June qtr 93	1989-90 = 100.0	109.3	n.a.	0.4	1.9
Articles produced by manufacturing industry	June 93	1988-89 = 100.0	115.3	n.a.	0.5	2.3
Materials used in manufacturing industries	June 93	1984-85 = 100.0	127.2	n.a.	1.5	2.1
<b>Labour force and demography</b>						
Employed persons	August 93	'000	7,684.9	7,729.6	-0.1	0.1
Participation rate †	"	%	62.0	62.6	0.2	-0.6
Unemployment rate †	"	"	10.7	11.1	0.4	0.2
Job vacancies	May 93	'000	30.2	31.6	9.5	24.3
Average weekly overtime per employee	"	hours	1.18	1.20	3.5	8.4
Estimated resident population	Dec. qtr 92	million	17.6	n.a.	0.2	1.1
Short-term overseas visitor arrivals	June 93	'000	205	247	-6.4	14.3
<b>Incomes</b>						
Company profits before income tax	June qtr 93	\$m	3,978	4,435	-1.8	33.6
Av. weekly earnings, full-time adults; ordinary time	May qtr 93	\$	597.80	n.a.	0.7	1.8
<b>Financial markets</b>						
Interest rates (c) (monthly average)	July 93	% per annum	4.95	n.a.	-0.30	-0.60
90-day bank bills †	"	"	6.90	n.a.	-0.45	-1.40
10-year Treasury bonds †	July 93	per \$A	0.6775	n.a.	—	-9
Exchange rate — \$US						

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (c) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia.

NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available.

Percentage change from same period previous year

Key State indicators	Period	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
New capital expenditure*	Mar. qtr 93	6.6	2.7	-14.0	2.2	31.5	1.0	n.a.	n.a.	3.2
Retail turnover (trend estimate)	July 93	-2.0	5.8	4.5	3.5	12.3	0.0	n.a.	7.8	3.4
New motor vehicle registrations†	July 93	-8.6	4.5	15.9	-4.1	-2.6	-5.9	36.2	6.8	-0.6
Number of dwelling unit approvals†	July 93	12.3	4.9	24.5	21.3	2.9	8.0	12.9	-12.5	8.3
Value of total building work done	Mar. qtr 93	3.2	2.0	16.0	0.8	35.9	-0.5	-10.8	-6.2	7.5
Employed persons*	August 93	-1.0	-1.1	1.2	1.1	3.7	-2.0	-1.9	4.9	0.1
Capital city consumer price index	June qtr 93	1.8	1.8	2.5	2.7	1.1	2.2	1.5	2.2	1.9
Av. weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time)	May qtr 93	0.1	2.2	5.0	1.7	-0.1	2.0	2.5	4.2	1.8
Population	Dec. qtr 92	0.9	0.5	2.5	0.5	1.2	0.5	1.0	1.5	1.1
Room nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc.	Mar. qtr 93	6.7	2.3	14.1	-2.5	2.1	10.5	6.1	14.6	7.0

\* Seasonally adjusted except for NT and ACT. † Seasonally adjusted except for Tas., NT and ACT.

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